No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-264-3-19-5

OP IMMFD
DE WTE #3333 1820635
O 0105332 JUL 75
FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOHAK32//

TO ADAMS FOR THE SECRETARY

UNCLAS VIA BLACK PATCH WH51124

TOHAK32

NEWS AND COMMENT
1 JULY 1975
THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY NEWS SUMMARY

INTERNATIONAL: NEWS

NEWS

US GAVE ISRAEL AN ULTIMATUM, ISRAELI RADIO SAYS

ISRAELI NATIONAL RADIO SAID MONDAY PRESIDENT FORD HAD GIVEN ISRAEL WHAT AMOUNTED TO AN ULTIMATUM IN THE CURRENT MIDDLE EAST PEACE NEGOTIATIONS--ACCEPT EGYPT'S CONDITIONS FOR AN INTERIM AGREEMENT OR LOSE AMERICAN SUPPORT AT A RECONVENED GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE.

PRESIDENT FORD IS NOT PRESSURING ISRAEL TO ACCEPT EGYPTIAN PROPOSALS IN MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS, RON NESSEN SAID MONDAY. "NO ULTIMATUM WAS GIVEN AT THE MEETING WITH AMB-ASSADOR DINITZ," NESSEN SAID. IT WAS A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND OF NEGOTIATIONS THAT ARE GOING ON, HE SAID. "THE WHITE HOUSE WON'T SAY WHAT WAS DISCUSSED," NBC/CBS SAID.

SOURCES CLOSE TO THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT SAID MONDAY IN CAIRO THAT EGYPT HAS REJECTED ISRAELI PROPOSALS FOR A SECOND-STAGE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT OF THE SINAI FRONT AND THAT THE EGYPTIAN POSITION HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE US, UPI REPORTED. EGYPT WANTS ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW COMPLETELY FROM THE GIDI AND MITLA PASSES IN THE SINAI, BUT ISRAEL HAS OFFERED ONLY A PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *WHSR COMMENT * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

SECFLE

PSN:036278 PAGE 01 TOR:182/0613SZ DTG:0105332 JUL 75

*******U N C L A S S I F I E D*******S COPY

No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-264-3-19-5

No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-264-3-19-5

ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK RABIN REPEATED HIS RESISTANCE MONDAY TO WHAT ISRAELIS SAY ARE AMERICAN ATTEMPTS TO PRESSURE ISRAEL INTO MAKING A MAJOR TERRITORIAL CONCESSION.

NESSEN WAS GIVEN SEVERAL CHANCES TO DENY REPORTS OF THE ULTIMATUM BUT NEVER SPECIFICALLY DIS DO, TOM JARRIEL(ABC) REPORTED. NESSEN WOULD NOT SAY WHETHER FORD'S PLANS INCLUDE AN ISRAELI WHTHDRAWAL TO THE PRE-1967 BOUNDARIES.

THREE OPTIONS ARE BEING CONSIDERED BY THE PRESIDENT, HARRIEL SAID. THESE ARE THE SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY APPROACH, AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN GENEVA, AND KISSINGER'S STEP-BY-STEP APPROACE IN A GENEVA TYPE CONFERENCE.

"AS US REASSESSMENT OF ITS MIDEAST POLICY DRAWS TO A CLOSE, IT IS APPARENT THAT IT HAS CHANGED VERY LITTLE. THE US IS AS RELUCTANT TO RETURN TO GENEVA NOW AS IT WAS WHEN THE KISSINGER SHUTTLE FAILED INMARCH...IF ANYTHING HAS CHANGED IT IS THE ISRAELI'S WILLINGNESS TO SHOW MORE FLEXIBILITY," TED KOPPEL (ABC) REPORTED.

"RABIN HAS BEEN PUT IN AN UNCOMFORTABLE POSITION. IF HE GIVES IN TO WASHINGTON HE WILL BE IN POLITICAL TROUBLE AT HOME. IF HE STICKS TO HIS GUNS, HE RISKS RETALIATION FROM THE WHITE HOUSE, WHICH IS STILL HOLDING UP ISRAEL'S $2.5 BILLION AID REQUEST. AT THE MOMENT RABIN SEEMS TO BE LOOKING FOR SOME MIDDLE GROUND. HE'S EXPECTED TO SEEK CLARIFICATION OF EGYPT'S STAND TO SEE IF THERE IS SOME ROOM FOR COMPROMISE," TOM FENTON(CBS) REPORTED. --AP;UPI;NETWORKS (6/30/75)

US NEWSMEN EXPELLED FROM INDIA

THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT ESCALATED ITS POLITICAL CRACKDOWN MONDAY BY AUTHORIZING POLICE TO MAKE ARRESTS WITHOUT CAUSE. IT ALSO ORDERED WASHINGTON POST CORRESPONDENT LEWIS SIMONS EXPELLED FROM THE COUNTRY.

SIMON WHO HAS BEEN IN THE COUNTRY SINCE 1972, WAS THE FIRST FOREIGN NEWSMAN TO BE EXPELLED SINCE THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT DECLARED A STATE OF EMERGENCY AND ORDERED STRICT CENSOR-SHIP OVER ALL NEWS.

HE WAS EXPELLED BECAUSE OF A STORY IN WHICH HE SAID INDIAN ARMY OFFICERS ARE "KNOWN TO BE ANNOYED" OVER MRS. GANDHI'S REFUSAL TO RESIGN, AP REPORTED.

J.D. NARAYAN, THE MOST PROMINENT OPPOSITON LEADER ARRESTED LAST WEEK, SUFFERED A SERIOUS HEART ATTACK MONDAY WHILE IN JAIL.

No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-264-3-19-5

No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-264-3-19-5

--AP;UPI;NETWORKS(6/30/75)

US ARMY MAJOR STRUCK BY COMMUNIST REPORTER

A US ARMY MAJOR WAS KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS BY NORTH KOREAN GUARDS MONDAY OUTSIDE THE ARMISTICE COMMISSION CONFERENCE IN PANMUNJOM, KOREA.

A COMMUNIST REPORTER APPARENTLY MADE A COMMENT TO MAJ. WILLIAM D. HENDERSON, AND WHEN HENDERSON REPLIED, HE WAS STRUCK BY THE REPORTER. THE INCIDENT TOUCHED OFF A FREE-FOR-ALL BETWEEN A DOZEN AMERICAN AND SOUTH KOREAN GUARDS ON ONE SIDE AND A LARGER NUMBER OF NORTH KOREAN SOLDIERS ON THE OTHER. HENDERSON AND AN AMERICAN MILITARY POLICEMAN WHO TRIED TO HELP HIM WERE KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS AND CARRIED AWAY ON STRETCHERS. LATER BOTH WERE SEEN ON THEIR FEET, NBC REPORTED.
--AP;UPI;NBC;ABC (6/30/75)

FORMATION OF NEW CABINET ATTEMPTED IN LEBANON

PRIME MINISTER RASHID KARAMI FORMED A SIX-MAN CABINET REPRESENTING ALL OF LEBANON'S MAIN RELIGIOUS FACTIONS MONDAY. NBC REPORTED THAT KARAMI "CAME CLOSE TO FORMING A NEW GOVERNMENT AFTER ONE MONTH OF TRYING, BUT A FINAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF A NEW CABINET HAS BEEN POSTPONED."

MEANWHILE, 43 PERSONS WERE KILLED MONDAY IN STREET FIGHTING IN BEIRUT BETWEEN PRIVATE MILITIAS. THE CITY DEATH TOLL FOR THE PAST WEEK IS NOW SET AT 162.

IT'S THE WORST CRISIS IN LEBANON'S 32-YEAR HISTORY AS AN INDEPENDENT STATE, NBC SAID. --AP;UPI;NETWORKS (6/30/75)

DEFENSE: NEWS

SOVIET WARHEAD HIT U.S. SHIP, ANDERSON SAYS

ONE PIECE OF A DUMMY SOVIET MISSILE CRASHED ONTO THE DECK OF AN AMERICAN SHIP IN THE PACIFIC EARLIER THIS MONTH, COLUMNIST JACK ANDERSON SAID MONDAY.

THE SOVIETS HAD ANNOUNCED THEY WOULD BE TEST-FIRING MISSILES INTO THE PACIFIC AND HAD WARNED SHIPPING TO STAY OUT OF A CERTAIN AREA, BUT THE US NAVY SENT A SHIP TO MONITOR THE TEST. THE WARHEAD BROKE UP WITH TWO PIECES HITTING THE OCEAN AND ONE STRIKING THE SHIP'S DECK. THE MISSILE, AN SS18, WAS FIRED FROM CENTRAL RUSSIA. --

ZUMWALT SAYS U.S. NAVAL STRENGTH DECLINING

No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-264-3-19-5

No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-264-3-19-5

ADMIRAL ELMO ZUMWALT SAID MONDAY THAT AMERICAN NAVAL STRENGTH HAS DECLINED AND THAT THE NAVY COULD NOT, IF CALLED UPON, KEEP THE SEAS OPEN. SOVIET NAVAL STRENGTH IS NOW SUPERIOR TO THAT OF THE US, HE SAID.

HE BLAMED SIX YEARS OF WASTEFUL SPENDING ON HIGH-COST NUCLEAR-PROPELLED PLATFORMS . THE US HAS BEEN CAPTURED BY A NUCLEAR LOBBY, PARTLY IN CONGRESS, HE SAID.

PRESIDENT FORD'S RECENT STATEMENT THAT THE SOVIETS WERE NOT CHEATING ON ARMS REDUCTION IS "GROSSLY INACCURATELY," ZUMWALT SAID. HE AGREED WITH SENS. HENRY JACKSON AND JAMES BUCKLEY THAT THE PRESIDENT IS CUT OFF FROM INFORMATION AND ADVERSARY VIEWS BY SECRETARY KISSINGER. "I THINK THAT THE CONGRESS SHOULD LOOK INTO THIS AND MAKE THE PRESIDENT AWARE TO THE EXTENT HE HAS BEEN MISLED...IT IS CLEAR THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS MISINFORMATION." -- AM AMERICA 6/30/75

ADMINISTRATION, AGENCIES: NEWS

MURPHY SAYS WORK OF NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR AND SECRETARY OF STATE TOO MUCH FOR ONE MAN

FORMER UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE AND HEAD OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON FOREIGN POLICY, ROBERT MURPHY SAID IN A 7-MINUTE INTERVIEW MONDAY THAT THE COMMISSION FELT THAT THE DUTIES INVOLVED IN THE JOBS OF NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR AND SECRETARY OF STATE ARE REALLY TOO MUCH FOR ONE MAN TO HANDLE EFFECTIVELY. "AT THE MOMENT WE HAVE THE BENEFIT OF AN EXTRAORDINARILY WELL-EQUIPPED PERSON IN THE PERSON OF HENRY KISSINGER BUT THAT IS NOT ALWAYS THE SITUATION. WHILE THE PRESIDENT HAS THE OPTION OF APPOINTING ONE OR THE OTHER, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE FAR PREFERABLE FOR THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE WORK OF THOSE TWO FUNCTIONS TO BE HANDLED BY TWO SEPARATE INDIVIDUALS," MURPHY SAID.

MURPHY ALSO SAID THAT, IN HIS PERSONAL OPINION, THE CIA BUDGET SHOULD NOT BE PUBLISHED AND THAT AMERICANS SHOULD EXERCISE EXTREME CAUTION WHEN DEALING WITH HIGHLY CLASSIFIED MATERIAL. HE NOTED THAT THE REPORT RELEASE BY THE COMMISSION HAD NO OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON THIS. -- CBS MORNING NEWS (6/30/75)

MOYNIHAN SWORN IN AS U.N. AMBASSADOR

DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN WAS SWORN IN AS THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS MONDAY. AT THE SWEARING IN CEREMONY, PRESIDENT FORD PLEDGED TO RESIST ANY ATTEMPTS TO USE THE U.N. FOR NARROW POLITICAL INTERESTS. -- UPI;ABC; CBS

No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-264-3-19-5

No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-264-3-19-5

(6/30/75)

INTELLIGENCE: COMMENT

COMMENT

WHY WEREN'T AMERICANS TOLD?
(EDITORIAL, EXCERPTED FROM THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER)

A SPOKESMAN FOR VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER HAS DENIED THE REPORT THAT THE CIA COMMISSION "CENSORED" REFERENCES TO THE SOVIET CAPACITY TO INTERCEPT AND RECORD TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS WITHIN THE U.S. THE SPOKESMAN CONCEDES, THOUGH, THAT THE COMMISSION DID SEEK "THE ADVICE OF EXPERTS ON CLASSIFICATION AS TO CERTAIN SENSITIVE MATTERS" AND THAT A FEW PASSAGES HAD BEEN "REPHRASED."

WE ARE UNEASY, INDEED SERIOUSLY DISTURBED, AT THE FAILURE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO APPRISE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE OF THIS LONG AGO. OBVIOUSLY, THE OBJECT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN TO DEPRIVE THE RUSSIANS OF INFORMATION AS TO WHAT THEY THEMSELVES WERE DOING. WAS IT, THEN, TO KEEP THEM FROM KNOWING THAT WE KNEW WHAT THEY WERE DOING? BUT IF SO, WHY? WHAT USEFUL PURPOSE COULD BE SERVED BY THEIR GOVERNMENT'S KNOWING, AND OUR GOVERNMENT'S KNOWING, BUT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE'S NOT KNOWING OF WHAT THE ROCKEFELLER COMMISSION CALLED "THE REAL SPECTER" OF POTENTIAL BLACKMAIL? IF IT WAS TO DECEIVE THE RUSSIANS WITH PHONY INFORMATION, THAT IS TOO HIGH A PRICE TO PAY. (6/30/75)

SPYING FOR NATIONAL SECURITY
(EDITORIAL CONDENSED FROM THE DES MOINES REGISTER)

THE RUSSIANS HAVE EXCEPTIONAL SPIES ARMED WITH SOPHISTICATED GADGETS TO PICK UP AMERICAN SECRETS, THAT IS WHAT U.S. INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS ARE TELLING US.

THE REPORTS OF SOVIET SUCCESS IN INTELLIGENCE ARE REMINISCENT OF THE REPORTS OF SOVIET ADVANCES IN WEAPONRY THAT ALWAYS SEEM TO CIRCULATE WITH ASTONISHING REGULARITY ABOUT THE TIME CONGRESS GETS DOWN TO SERIOUS WORK ON THE PENTAGON'S BUDGET REQUESTS.

NOW THE INTELLIGENCE-GATERING IS ABOUT TO GET CONGRESSIONAL SCRUTINY, IT APPEARS THE INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES ARE BUSY ISSUING REPORTS MEANT TO PROVE HOW IMPORTANT THEIR SECRET WORK IS, IT SOUNDS FAMILIAR -- THE SELF-SERVING PROPAGANDA GARNISHED WITH COLD WAR FANTASIES.

ALL THE TALK ABOUT SOVIET SPYING ON AMERICAN LEADERS MAY DIVERT PUBLIC ATTENTION FROM AN INCREASING AMOUNT OF AMERICAN

No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-264-3-19-5

No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-264-3-19-5

SPYING ON AMERICAN CITIZENS.

ATTORNEY GENERAL LEVI HAS JUSTIFIED THE ELECTRONIC EAVES-
DROPPING AS NECESSARY FOR "NATIONAL SECURITY."
WE WONDER HOW SPIES MANAGED BEFORE ONE OF THEIR PATRONS INVENTED
THE TERM. (6/27/75)

DOES CIA KNOW ITS LIMITS?
(EDITORIAL, EXCERPTED FROM THE CHICAGO SUN-TIMES)

THE CIA, TENACIOUSLY TRYING TO SAVE THE TATTERED REMNANTS
OF ITS SECURITY BLANKET, SEEMS SURPRISINGLY STILL CONFUSED
ABOUT THE LIMITS OF ITS LEGAL FUNCTIONS. THAT MUCH WAS CLEAR
FROM DIRECTOR COLBY'S CLAIM THAT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ARE NOT
IMMUNE FROM CIA SURVEILLANCE OVERSEAS AND FROM HIS FAILURE TO
EXPLAIN WHY THE AGENCY STILL KEEPS FILES ON 75 OF THEM.

COLBY'S REMARKS WERE A DEFIANT GESTURE TO THE LAWMAKERS WHO
ARE INVESTIGATING HIS AGENCY'S DOCUMENTED MISDEEDS, INDEED
CRIMES, AND AN ASSERTION OF THE TYPE OF ATTITUDES THAT SO
OBVIOUSLY LED THE CIA INTO FORBIDDEN TERRITORY.

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ARE TRUSTED PUBLIC SERVANTS WHO HAVE
ACCESS TO MANY GOVERNMENTAL SECRETS. FOR THE CIA TO SPY ON
THIS SEPARATE AND EQUAL BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT IS FOLLY.

BUT SUCH MISGUIDED ATTITUDES CAN BE EXPECTED TO SURVIVE IF
SOME OF THE ROCKEFELLER COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO REVISE
THE CIA ARE ACCEPTED. FOR RATHER THAN CURB ILLEGAL ACTS, THE
COMMISSION APPEARS TO ENCOURAGE THEM.

WITH THAT SORT OF ENCOURAGEMENT, THE CIA CAN BE EXPECTED TO
GO BLITHELY ON DOING WHAT COMES NATURALLY. IT IS UP TO CONGRESS
TO NOTE WELL THESE DANGERS AND TO INSTITUTE THE CURBS THAT
WOULD HOPEFULLY KEEP THE CIA HONEST.

CIA HAS A ROLE
(EDITORIAL CONDENSED FROM THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL)

REVELATIONS ABOUT ILLEGAL CIA ACTIVITIES HAVE PRODUCED
TWO EXTREME REACTIONS. THOSE WHO SEE THE CIA AS COMPLETELY
VITAL TO THE NATION'S SECURITY HAVE PUT FORTH THE CRY THAT
THESE REVELATIONS WILL DESTROY THE AGENCY AND ITS ABILITY
TO COUNTER THE FOREIGN FOES OF THE U.S. FROM THE OTHER SIDE
COMES CALLS FOR THE CIA'S DEMISE, THAT ITS ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES
WARRANT THE DEATH OF THE AGENCY. NEITHER ANSWER IS SUITABLE.

THE CIA PLAYS AN IMPORTANT AND NECESSARY INTELLIGENCE
ROLE IN TODAY'S WORLD. CLOSING UP THE CIA WOULD NOT PUT AN

No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-264-3-19-5

No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-264-3-19-5

END TO INTELLIGENCE GATHERING. IT WOULD ONLY SHIFT THE RESPONSIBILITY TO THE THREE MILITARY SERVICES. THE PRESIDENT NEEDS A RELIABLE OUTSIDE SOURCE TO CHECK ON AND BALANCE THE ADVOCACY CLAIMS OF DOD. OVER THE YEARS, THE CIA HAS FILLED THAT ROLE QUITE WELL.

THE REVELATIONS OF ILLEGAL CIA ACTIVITIES WILL NOT DESTROY THE AGENCY. IN FACT, A CHASTENED AND HUMBLED CIA IS LIKELY TO GO ABOUT ITS LEGITIMATE BUSINESS WITH MUCH MORE FERVOR IN ORDER TO RECLAIM ITS REPUTATION. (6/25/75)

SHOULD CIA BUDGET BE PUBLIC?
BY BRUCE MORTON

CIA DIRECTOR WILLIAM COLBY IS OPPOSED TO MAKING ANY PART OF HIS AGENCY'S BUDGET PUBLIC. AT PRESENT WHATEVER FUNDS USED TO OPERATE THE CIA ARE CONCEALED IN THE DEFENSE BUDGET. COLBY EXPLAINED ON NBC'S MEET THE PRESS SUNDAY THAT EVEN PARTIAL DISCLOSURE AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ROCKEFELLER COMMISSION WOULD BE BAD BECAUSE IT WOULD LEAD TO DEMANDS FOR FURTHER DISCLOSURE OF THINGS WHICH NEED TO BE KEPT SECRET.

AS AN EXAMPLE, COLBY CITED THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION'S WEAPONS EXPENDITURES WHICH ORIGINALLY WERE LISTED AS A ONE LINE ITEM AND BY LAST YEAR HAD EXPANDED TO 15 PAGES OF DETAILED EXPLANATION. CRITICS POINT TO THE REQUIREMENT IN THE CONSTITUTION THAT A REGULAR STATEMENT AND ACCOUNT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES OF ALL PUBLIC MONEY SHALL BE PUBLISHED FROM TIME TO TIME. COLBY DID NOT DIRECTLY ANSWER THE CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION, ARGUING PRACTICALITY INSTEAD. BUT THE ATOMIC SECRETS THAT WERE LOST WERE NOT LOST BECAUSE THE AEC PUBLISHED A BUDGET -- THEY WERE LOST BECAUSE SPIES SNEAKED THE INFORMATION OUT AND SOLD IT.

COLBY BELIEVES THAT PUBLISHING A BUDGET FIGURE WOULD COST THE CIA'S SECRETS, BUT THAT REMAINS UNPROVEN. IF THE AGENCY RISKS $5,000 SPENT FOR SPIES DOES THAT ENDANGER A PARTICULAR SPY? WHAT IS CLEAR IS THAT WITHOUT DISCLOSURE NEITHER CONGRESS NOR THE PUBLIC CAN KNOW HOW MUCH THE CIA SPENDS OR WHAT IT SPENDS IT FOR, NOR HOW MUCH THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY SPENDS NOR THE DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY NOR ANY OF THE OTHER 20 OR SO INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES. CONGRESS AND THE PUBLIC WILL NOT KNOW WHETHER THESE ARE DUPLICATING EACH OTHER'S WORK OR WHETHER THEY ARE BEING WASTEFUL OF THE PUBLIC'S MONEY OR PRUDENT.

THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY'S RESPONSE CAME DOWN TO TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT. THINGS ARE OK, BUT THE PRESENT INVESTIGATIONS HAVE ALREADY SHOWN THAT IN THE PAST THAT WORD HAS NOT ALWAYS BEEN GOOD. -- CBS MORNING NEWS (6/30/75)

No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-264-3-19-5

No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-264-3-19-5

FOREIGN POLICY: COMMENT

COMMENT

THE END OF USAID - LAOS
(EDITORIAL, EXCERPTED FROM THE BALTIMORE SUN)

AS USAID-LAOS CLOSED LAST WEEK, A NEW LAOTIAN DEPUTY ECONOMICS MINISTER SUGGESTED IN AN INTERVIEW THAT THE U.S. SEEK A FRESH START WITH LAOS'S NEW COMMUNIST-DOMINATED GOVERNMENT. THE DEPUTY MINISTER, DR. SOMPHOU OUDOMVILAY, COMMENTED WITH TELLING ACCURACY ON THE LATE STAGES OF AMERICA'S PRESENCE IN LAOS: AFTER AN INCISIVE EXPLANATION OF THE HURT TO MANY LAOTIANS' PRIDE FROM TIGHT AMERICAN CONTROL OF MOST USAID-OPERATIONS IN LAOS, HE URGED THAT WASHINGTON NOT LET "THESE LITTLE INCIDENTS" -- THE RECENT WEEKS OF SYSTEMATIC HARASSMENT OF AMERICAN CIVILIANS -- CAUSE A PERMANENT END TO AID TO LAOS.

BUT IT IS NOT THE RECENT STUDENT HARASSMENT OF AMERICANS -- NOR EVEN THE STRONG CIRCUMSTANTIAL PRESUMPTION OF PATHET LAO INCITEMENT OF THE STUDENTS -- THAT THREATENS TO KEEP AMERICAN AID FROM BEING RESUMED. THE THREAT IS FROM PATHET LAO REFUSAL TO SAY WHAT IS MEANT BY DEMANDS THAT FUTURE AID BE WITH "NO STRINGS ATTACHED." THE DEEP INVOLVEMENT OF USAID IN THE LAOTIAN WAR WAS A BIZARRE BLUNDER, THERE IS NO REASON TO COMMIT ITS OBVERSE NOW BY HANDING OVER EVER-SCARCER AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT MONEY WITH NO IDEA WHERE IT IS GOING. (6/30/75)
2813

No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-264-3-19-5